

## **Testimony for HB1675**

by Hon. Sue Homola, Hollis, NH

I strongly support HB1675, and I am grateful for Rep Read and the bi-partisan group of co-sponsors who crafted this bill.

As a freshman State Rep in 2021-2022, I did research on the procedures and mechanisms our state had in place to address sexual assault. I was interested in this because New Hampshire was utilized as the springboard to bolster Rep Annie Kuster's national effort to establish a federal sexual assault task force in 2017. Since that time there has been an enormous amount of discussion regarding sexual assault on school campuses, and new procedures have been instituted around the nation. However, some of these procedures have had to be rolled back due to the initial overreach and lack of due diligence protections for those accused of sexual assault.

As a freshman Rep researching this topic, I did not have enough legislative experience to fully understand how this federal conversation on sexual assault translated to the resources we have at our state level. I now understand what a large part the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence plays in our state's response to sexual violence. This organization is funded with federal and state money of approximately \$10-12 million annually. It also performs its duties in a critical, state-sanctioned, public-safety capacity.

However, this organization is exempt from 91-A right-to-know inquiry, there are no current mechanism for legislators to perform due diligence on how these federal and state funds are being utilized. This bill does not alter the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in any way. It merely asks for a review of the organization.

Not only is this study commission overdue, it should be welcomed by those who adhere to government accountability and transparency.